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COCHABAMBA MILITARY COMMANDER BLASTS GOVERNMENT

PY161453 Paris AFP in Spanish 0206 GMT 16 Feb 80 PY

[By Eduardo Perez Iribarne]

[Excerpt] La Paz, 15 Feb (AFP)--President Lidia Gueiler was openly attacked by an army colonel today, while all La Paz radio stations suspended their broadcasts due to a strike by their managers and employees.

Col Mario Vargas Salinas, commander of the 7th Army Division stationed in Cochabamba, 400 km southeast of La Paz, maintained that the government lacks the ability to solve the present Bolivian crisis. Vargas said in statements to the press that "the incapacity of the government is often disguised by references to the spectre of a coup d'etat."

Observers pointed out that the Constitution forbids military men on active service from participating in politics.

Vargas said: "This Bolivian process is unfortunately being distorted by chaos and anarchy." He added: "But I think that in a very short time the people will forget the word coup d'etat because the word fraud will appear on the political stage," thus referring to the coming general elections called by President Gueiler for 29 June.

The government has not reacted officially to the remarks made by Colonel Vargas, who has been linked by government circles to antidemocratic subversive preparations together with Gen Luis Garcia Meza, commander of the "Gualberto Villarroel" military school in La Paz.

SENATE LEADER SAYS NEW CABINET STRENGTHENS GOVERNMENT

PY161213 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Feb 80 PY

[Excerpt] Oscar Zamora, vice president of the national Senate and leader of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Bolivia, has told Radio Panamerican that the Democratic and Popular Unity [UDP], through its member groups the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) and the National Left Liberation Alliance [ALIN], is participating in the new cabinet which will cooperate with the constitutional regime of President Lidia Gueiler. Zamora said that the new cabinet is mainly political.

[Begin Zamora recording] Well, as you know, the parties of the alliance are in the cabinet [words indistinct] now with the inclusion of two ministers who are members of the UDP [words indistinct] are the political basis of the cabinet. As you know, the presence of the new ministers, such as Navajas, who is a militant of the MIR, strengthens the cabinet, as does the inclusion of Labor Minister Sandoval, who is an ALIN member.

These are observations on the presence of new tendencies which I believe can influence the strength and representativeness of the cabinet. I would like to say once again that the presence of these new ministers has strengthened the political base of Lidia Gueiler's government. [end recording] Zamora also said that there are new currents in the cabinet installed yesterday which will help guarantee the holding of free and clean general elections.

UDP, COB CRITICIZE CENTRIST MAJORITY IN CABINET

PY152038 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1742 GMT 15 Feb 80 PY

[By Rene Villegas]

[Excerpts] La Paz, 15 Feb (LATIN)--Leftist sectors today criticized the fact that a centrist front has a majority in President Lidia Gueiler's cabinet and expressed some doubts about the proclaimed lack of official bias in the electoral process.

The criticisms against the so-called "national unity" cabinet were voiced by the leftist Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP), led by former President Hernan Siles Zuazo, and by other political and union groups.

Government sources indicated that the president had sought to reshuffle the cabinet to give participation to all political sectors--for which she had reportedly held talks with leaders of all persuasions--but in view of "unfortunate refusals" she chose to retain 14 of the resigning ministers. Most of these ministers belong to the centrist Nationalist Revolutionary Movement Alliance (MNR), led by three-time former President Victor Paz Estenssoro, and considered to be "the official party" by leftist sectors. "The cabinet did not change in essence," and "the country has little to expect now," were the first reactions of UDP senators Jorge Alvarez Plata and Fernando Baptista Gumucio, shortly after the results of the cabinet reshuffle became known.

The proclaimed lack of official bias in the electoral process was also questioned after the cabinet reshuffle left the majority in the hands of the MNR. UDP Deputy Mario Roncal summarized the general feelings of his group's congressional blocs by telling journalists last night that "this cabinet will be unable to dismantle the machinery set up by this political front (MNR) to win the coming elections."

A similar reaction could be detected today among sources of the Bolivian Labor Central (COB), whose top leaders had conveyed to the president the need to put together an "essentially administrative" cabinet to guarantee political fairness at the official level.

AIR FORCE: LECHIN HINDERING DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

PY151545 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0105 GMT 15 Feb 80 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 14 Feb (TELAM)--The Bolivian Air Force charged today that labor leader Juan Lechin Oquendo "is hindering the democratic process by using demagogic tactics to urge the laboring class" to make salary demands that will be "impossible" to meet because of the present situation.

The chiefs and commanders of the air force units drafted a 6-point statement in which they make serious charges against the head of the Bolivian Labor Central (COB). They met in Santa Cruz, located 900 km southeast of La Paz. Moreover, the air force expressed its solidarity with the recent statement made by Air Force Cmdr Jaime Nino de Guzman, who said that "the fatherland is being threatened by the pressures of the extreme left, disorder, personal ambition and the disorder of society in general."

The statement issued by the air force chiefs states that comments made by Lechin against the air force "are insolent, false and insulting."

It adds: It is the leader Lechin who has to travel through the border areas. We military officers are already hardened by service. The statement also charges that the labor leader "has lived off the laboring class."

The statement notes that the air force "has always respected the workers, since they generate the resources of the fatherland." Moreover, it states that the armed forces "support the democratic process and are in complete agreement with the government that the next election should be held within a framework of complete tranquillity and in a clean manner."

INTERIOR MINISTER CHARGES ANTIGOVERNMENT PLOT

PY151551 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Feb 80 PY

[Excerpts] The studios of the Altiplano radio station were destroyed by an explosion at 2115 last night. After inspecting the damage, Interior Minister Selum Vaca Diez charged that there is a large-scale subversive plan to compromise the government and the democratic process in which the nation is engaged, which will culminate with the elections.

He said that a threat was received by his ministry some time ago, and that it is suspected that the threat was made by individuals who have been identified by the ministry some time ago, and that it is suspected that the threat was made by individuals who have been identified by the ministry as experts in this type of action. Jorge Selum promised to clear up the case totally in the next few hours, asserting that he is on the trail of the people who also attacked the office of the magazine AQUI, whom he called fascists. He further said that the government security forces have been ordered to redouble their watchfulness in several parts of the city, particularly near news media facilities, in view of threats of new attacks against radio stations and newspapers.

PRTB DENIES RESPONSIBILITY FOR RADIO STATION BOMBING

PY160001 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Feb 80 PY

[Text] The Bolivian Workers Revolutionary Party (PRTB), headed by Antonio Peredo Leigue, released a document clarifying its position on the dynamite attack on the Altiplano radio station in this city.

Through the communique, the PRTB denied any link with the dynamite attack and pointed out that this is part of a plan of the extreme right to create a favorable atmosphere for a fascist coup. The communique states that the methods used in the attack show a total disregard for the humble worker, indicate the fascist nature of the attack and also free the PRTB of the need to reject the accusation that the PRTB is responsible for it. The communique also states that this type of attack comes from a readily-identifiable source. Elements directly linked to the dictatorship, the fearsome CIA and the DOP (Departmento de Orden Publico--Department of Public Order--Interior Ministery Political Police) are the perpetrators, and they enjoy legal protection.

Interior Minister Jorge Selum Vaca Diez himself has denounced the fact that the Justice Department has released the perpetrators of similar acts.

The document released by the PRTB as a result of the terrorist attack on the Altiplano radio station also states that the obvious thing is that, wherever this attack came from, it is a despicable, vile and criminal act. The PRTB reiterates that the ideas and freedom of expression of any ideological group cannot be silenced with violence or dynamite attacks. What has taken place at the Altiplano radio station is simply abominable and requires a thorough investigation and drastic punishment for the perpetrators of this criminal attack.

GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS U.S. RIGHTS REPORT AS 'INTERFERENCE'

PY151902 Paris AFP in Spanish 0333 GMT 15 Feb 80 PY

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 14 Feb (AFP)--It was officially reported here today that Uruguay considers the Department of State human rights report recently submitted to the U.S. Congress to be a "clear interference" in its domestic affairs and an "uncalled for insult" and that it expects to be "granted complete satisfaction."

In a note that was submitted to the Department of State by the Uruguayan Embassy and issued here today by the National Public Relations Directorate, Uruguay states that the content of the report "calls for categorical rejection and formal protest."

The report to Congress is 800 pages long. It gives details on the situation in 154 countries in 1979, and it was issued by the United States on 5 February.

The note states that Uruguay does not argue the right of the United States to express its opinion on human rights through internal communiques, but the publication of a document of this kind is a "clear interference" in Uruguayan affairs.

It adds that "this interference is even more serious," because the United States holds an important position "on the international political scene" and because of "the power it has in international forums."

The Uruguayan note adds that Uruguay had already rejected in "general terms" a similar document in 1978 and that it warned "that such an attitude is a clearly unfriendly gesture" on the part of the United States.

The note states that now Uruguay "can only reassert that repudiation" and offer some explanations.

The Uruguayan note states that since Uruguay actively participates in discussions on human rights in international organizations it reasserts that the United States has "the obligation to be objective and diplomatically correct."

Reasserting its opposition to the official publication of the report, the Uruguayan Government notes, furthermore, that the report "includes opinions that are not related to the human rights issue," such as the opinion of a diplomatic official "about strictly domestic issues."

As an example, the note quotes a phrase from the report: "Corruption in the government has not expanded."

The note adds that "this sentence is by itself a serious insult to the government of a friendly country. It shows a disregard for diplomatic tradition and a lack of respect for a government that deserves friendship." The note adds, moreover, that this is aggravated by the presumption that is evident in the following clause: "although there are unconfirmed charges of corrupt practices by some prominent officials who have been identified."

This phrase "is equivalent to saying that the official report" issued by the Department of State "accepts the possibility of including slanderous rumors from anonymous sources," and that "its publication is an abuse of diplomatic practice" and "an uncalled-for insult against a country that has a long tradition of friendship and cooperation with the United States."

Officials Comment on Report

PY180238 Paris AFP in Spanish 1518 GMT 17 Feb 80 PY

[Excerpt] Punta del Este (Uruguay), 17 Feb (AFP)--The U.S. Congress report [as received] on human rights in Uruguay released a few days ago, along with similar reports on 154 other countries, "forces us into a very difficult moment in our relations," Foreign Minister Adoflo Folle has told the press. He pointed out that "it is truly unfortunate that an event of this nature might interfere with the good state of relations between the the countries." The foreign minister concluded by stating that he hopes "healthy values will prevail" in overcoming this situation, "which we did not provoke" and which, therefore, "cannot be attributed to us."

Commenting on the report, Navy Commander Vice Adm Hugo L. Marquez has said that it contains "many imprecise ideas" and other "exaggerated" ones.

A few days ago army commander Gen Luis V. Queirolo commented on the strong reply sent by the Uruguayan Government to the U.S. Government, noting that "those states which regard themselves as free and sovereign must act accordingly." Queirolo expressed his optimism over the future of Uruguayan-U.S. relations by stating that "there can be no variations." [variantes]

RED CROSS NOTES IMPROVEMENT IN TREATMENT OF PRISONERS

PY151943 Paris AFP in Spanish 1227 GMT 15 Feb 80 PY

[Text] Geneva, 15 Feb (AFP)--The press attache of the Red Cross International Committee (CICR) told AFP here today that a CICR delegation "is in fact visiting Uruguayan prisons and has been able to talk with the prisoners without witnesses, as is customary for this sort of mission of the international organization."

Asked whether he thought that this meant an improvement in the Montevideo government's respect for human rights, Rolland Hammer said: "It is not up to us to judge the attitude of governments but I can say that from the humanitarian point of view and from the point of view of the CICR, it is certainly positive."

Hammer added that the CICR mission has four members, all of them Swiss, among whom there is one doctor. The mission started its visits to Uruguayan prisons by going to the Libertad military prison, where it assessed the living conditions of the prisoners.

Hammer said that this type of mission ends its task by issuing an official and confidential report for the government of the country in question.

When asked why this mission, like the one which visited Uruguay in 1976, had taken so long to come, Rolland Hammer refused to comment.

HERRERA CAMPINS SPEAKS AT OPEC HEADQUARTERS IN VIENNA

PA172358 Caracas VENPRES in Spanish 1215 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Speech by Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins at the OPEC headquarters in Vienna, Austria, on 14 February]

[Excerpts] This visit to the organization's headquarters ends my tour through several Arab countries which are members of OPEC. It has been a long tour. It began in Algeria, continued through Libya, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia and concluded in Iraq, from where I have just come.

Through my presence I wanted to demonstrate the Venezuelan Government's firm intention to strengthen and consolidate Venezuela's bilateral relations with each of those countries and to make every effort within its means to strengthen OPEC unity and solidarity. I represented the Andean Group, which is anxious to establish the best collective friendship and to achieve the best overall understanding of OPEC.

This rapprochement with friendly governments and peoples comes about at a time marked by a difficult international situation. We are at an exceptional world crossroads: political circumstances are in flux and threaten conflicts. The energy situation is critical.

The year 1980 marks the 20th anniversary of the foundation of our organization. OPEC is currently going through one of its most important stages, a fact that forces us to think about what it has been up to this point and about its future activities and influence. My tour would have been incomplete without this meeting at which I plan to explain the fundamental conclusions I have reached during these past few days which have been dedicated to examining and evaluating the activities and prospects of this organization.

I would like to acknowledge the quality of the work and the magnitude of the effort and dedication displayed by all the national and local officials that carry out administrative and technical work within the general secretariat. Theirs is a constant contribution aimed at making our action and the results of our decisions more effective.

Today, for the second time in its history, a Venezuelan president is visiting the organization's headquarters. This shows the significance that Venezuela, a member and founder, grants OPEC. These past 20 years of experience have shown us that OPEC is a powerful instrument of worldwide dimensions that nobody can voluntarily ignore, push aside or remain unaware of in this century: OPEC represents an indisputable force in today's power relations.

We live in a world shaken by the contrasts of an astonishing reality: that of the selfishness and foolishness of the powerful in search of their own gain and that of the defenselessness of the oppressed seeking paths to satisfy their legitimate aspirations and overcome the limitations burdening them. In the midst of all this, one can perceive a deteriorating climate favorable to aggression and violence. There is a terrain ready for threats.

Ignoring the ominous reality experienced by two thirds of the world, the big powers are readying to make the biggest and most terrifying arms-escalation effort recorded in history. The money denied to creative peace is being destined to the preparation of a war that is to be waged at some uncertain date. Man insists on demonstrating his potential for destruction.

The above terms define the perimeters of a confrontation that some are already describing as a cold war, within the framework of the hegemonic powers' urge to survive.

Diagnoses of this type seek to ignore the transformations that have taken place in the world political system: The relative reduction of the big powers' power--merely reduced now to a maintenance of world balance and increasingly less operative and effective in controlling specific local and regional situations--the divergence between political-military power and economic power, and the emergence of new power centers--national, regional, international and above all, transnational.

We are facing a situation marked by disjointed and disoriented changes. Power vacuums are causing profound convulsions amid disorder and anarchy. In today's world, not only are the most elemental rules of international law being ignored, but, in various countries' internal politics, terrorists indiscriminately resort to assassination, destruction, blackmail and kidnapings in a desperate effort to achieve their objectives. Attempts are made against the existence, the physical integrity and the very freedom of human beings.

The seizure of embassies as well as the attacks carried out against their integrity and the disrespect shown to the right of asylum, reveal a grave and alarming retrogression in the consideration shown the most cherished achievements of our civilization. The right to asylum is an institution of Latin American origin and development, inspired in the best humanitarian thoughts and feelings and is regarded as a step forward indissolubly linked to the progress of mankind.

While this has been happening in the political arena, the world economy has been experiencing its most serious crisis since the end of World War II. It is generated by underlying structural maladjustments and by a lack of equity in international economic relations.

The first manifestations of this crisis can be traced to the monetary upheavals that occurred in the second half of the sixties, which culminated with the devaluation of the U.S. dollar on 15 August 1971. It has led to a world monetary chaos which at present has forced several countries or groups of countries, such as the EEC, to seek particular solutions which, not being partial, are no longer less effective today. [as received] In the face of the current monetary chaos, and as an organization comprised of countries representing a large part of the developing nations' world trade, OPEC could and should seek formulas guaranteeing the maintenance of the buying power of the nonrenewable natural resources it is exporting as well as achieve influence in the international monetary markets equivalent to the energy power it is providing and to the relinquishment of the wealth it is yielding for the sake of consumption in the more developed countries.

In recent years, the industrialized countries have sought to maintain that the current recession of the world economy stems from the adjustment of oil prices. Even President Carter in his recent State of the Union address noted that "the biggest individual factor contributing to the increase of the inflation rate last year stems from one cause: the astronomical increase in world oil prices." This affirmation has been repeatedly denied by several international organizations that cannot be accused of defending the OPEC countries' viewpoint. Those organizations concur in pointing out the limited effect of oil price adjustments on the world economy.

OPEC firmly accepts its responsibility. The increases decreed in 1973 and early 1974 had no purpose other than that of demanding the due value of a strategic product which for many years was sold at a vile price. This led to the illogical situation in which oil countries were obliged to either sacrifice or contain their own development possibilities to permit and finance the development of the industrialized nations. No one can deny that the price of oil is affected by the growing inflation originating in the industrialized countries and by the continuous deterioration in the dollar's purchasing power.

The increase in the price of oil, apart from being justified, has not always brought the benefits that the industrialized countries suppose. Most often, the increase in such financial and fiscal resources has had a serious impact on the level of prices in the exporting countries, resulting in a rapid increase in imports of all kinds of goods, in the appearance of frenzied consumerism or in having large sectors of our productive population seek the easy way of doing things [facilismo]. One could then ask: Why not restrict production? Basically, because of a sense of responsibility toward acquired commitments and moreover, to avoid the risk of producing an economic and social crisis of unpredictable magnitude in countries which waste fuel and have been accustomed for decades to easy and cheap access to this precious resource.

However, the OPEC is given full blame for the present crisis and is considered to be the direct beneficiary of the increase in prices, while there is hypocritical silence or dissembling regarding the conduct of the transnational oil companies, which are largely responsible for the marketing of hydrocarbons and for speculation on the spot market and which make huge profits in their transactions.

Hence, there is an unpostponable need to seek a price system that will permit the incorporation of both factors [inflation and the devaluation of the dollar] to maintain the real value of our main export.

Let the industralized countries also accept their full responsibility. International meetings have not achieved real results capable of averting the threat that is looming above our world. "Summit meetings" of the industrialized countries have produced only more or less pompous statements and manifestations of good intentions. As far as economic meetings between developing and developed countries are concerned, a chain of frustrations, if not of rancor and enmity, has been the painful result in the last 5 years. Perhaps the sole exception that can be noted, with cautious optimism, is the creation of the common fund of basic products and this is only at present in its promotion stage.

The dangerous circumstances prevailing at present require the reopening of the North-South dialog on firmer and more realistic bases. The lesson learned from previous discussions, which for the most part have been disconcernting, is that there is a need to begin a new round of North-South negotiations within the framework of the United Nations on the basis of a select number of important matters that include, in addition to energy, problems concerning raw material, commerce, and monetary and financial affairs. For this new round to be successful, the agenda must initially be sufficiently brief to make the task manageable and at the same time, it must include issues which are of interest to all developing countries and, in the final analysis, to the entire international community.

Contacts among OPEC member countries are indispensable in preparing the groundwork for the negotiations and permitting the OPEC to act in a coordinated manner, both within the group of developing countries to which it belongs, and in the course of the negotiations themselves.

During the present preparatory and exploratory stage, it is necessary for an effort to achieve understanding to be made by all participants and most particularly the industrialized countries, which so far have been unwilling to facilitate the dialog to insure specific, significant results on this occasion. The failure of this new attempt at negotiations could surely have very serious consequences for the world economy and for world peace.

We must, therefore, hope that with determination on everyone's part, the desired success will be achieved to guarantee [relations] on the basis of peaceful coexistence and prosperity for all people, as well as on the basis of respect for the true values of mankind projected into the social life of all communities.

We have been emphatic in referring to the solidarity that must be shown by the OPEC countries. However, the developing world requires the constant and open cooperation of the industrialized countries in order to achieve the harmonious growth of their national economies, in compensation for the colonialist exploitation to which these nations were subject in the past and even at present, and for the imbalances of various kinds with which they have been afflicted because of the exported inflation reflected in the prices of manufactured products that they import.

The clear reasoning of justice, therefore, demands that industrialized countries cooperate with the developing world. If OPEC does its part, so should the developed countries.

OPEC has been the center of world attention in the past few decades. Its traditional enemies and detractors have launched a systematic campaign to distort its decisions, achievements and policies. This perverse campaign has been of such magnitude that at times brother countries have yielded to the temptation to identify with our adversaries. Recognizing the reality of this information campaign, Venezuela at the conference in June proposed the creation of an OPEC news agency to spread the truth about its actions, and to serve as an adequate instrument of communication and information. The suggestion was approved and is being implemented. We hope that the agency will be functioning very soon.

At present the OPEC strategy committee, made up of the five founding countries (Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela) and Algeria, is discussing a matter that is fundamental to its future development. The committee must submit conclusions as soon as possible for the consideration of their respective governments and to allow the convening, within the least possible time, of a triministerial conference involving the ministries of foreign relations, energy and petroleum and finance. The ministers will exchange viewpoints regarding the scope of recommendations to be made in the final document that are to serve as a basis for the decisions that might be reached by the sovereigns and chiefs of state during the summit conference to which we were invited by the Iraqi Government. Venezuela's proposal of this tripartite meeting has met with broad support in all the countries I visited.

The reduction in the rate of increase on energy demands during the period from 1973-77 cannot be considered a result of energy conservation measures, but the result of reduced economic activity in industrialized countries. Despite this reduction in global energy production, oil maintained almost without change its relative position in consumption which went from 45.6 percent in 1970 to 44 percent in 1978.

This confirms that during that period there was no substantial replacement of oil by other fuels and still more important yet, it means that the various programs to conserve energy approved by industrialized countries were not properly implemented and, therefore, did not give the results expected.

We must always bear in mind that the trend in the world's energy demand depends on, among other factors, international economic development, on the energy policies of the most important oil-consuming countries and on estimates of the price of energy.

We are in a transition period: from a world with abundant and cheap energy to a world with less but more expensive energy. The development of alternative sources of energy is imperative for mankind. It is also necessary to establish conservationist policies that, without altering the world's economic development, will permit a more rational and efficient use of a resource that is running out.

Industrialized countries whose consumption represents 70 percent of the world's oil requirements have only 23 percent of world reserves.

OPEC members with 66 percent of world reserves are contributing more than half of the world supply by exporting nearly 88 percent of their production: approximately 26 million barrels per day.

Oil-importing countries from the Third World will have to pay dearly for energy to continue developing, contrary to industrialized countries which were developed while energy was cheap. For this reason, those countries must be helped to develop their own sources of energy, which will be beneficial to the whole international community. Besides, Third World countries must benefit from energy saving and not wasting technology, as is the case now.

In the meantime, OPEC has agreed to guarantee an oil supply to those countries at official prices.

According to an estimate on the future of the world oil market, we could say that if strict and quick measures are not taken, oil supplies will be limited and will not be enough to meet the probable demand.

We must take into consideration the increase of energy demands of OPEC, which had an increase in oil consumption of approximately 16 percent annually during the 1972-1977 period.

The ambitious industrialization programs that member countries of OPEC are carrying out will increase their rate of economic growth, which naturally will affect oil consumption. It is estimated that it will double in the first 6 months this year and will perhaps triple by 1990. All this will severely restrict our countries' future exports.

The arrangement for future oil supply by OPEC is another matter which deserves our attention. We have all witnessed how since 1976, heavy crudes have increased in the total production. It is expected that this trend will continue in most member countries of OPEC.

Oil-consuming industrialized countries must be cognizant of this qualitative change in the supply of oil and start making serious efforts to obtain the facilities to process larger quantities of heavy crude.

I have said it is of vital importance for OPEC to maintain relations with developing countries based on understanding, friendship and cooperation. The organization has become the main instrument for defending the oil resources of OPEC. OPEC is also the best ally of developing countries. For this reason, we are obliged and committed to that group of nations in whose overall development we are participating. Our major difference with those countries is that we have oil. But our problems are the same or very much alike. Our situation is very similar. To cooperate and remain solidary with them is necessary and fundamental for OPEC's future.

We have the obligation to give them more efficient and immediate cooperation according to deeds which corroborate our words. The heads of state and sovereigns have agreed on the necessity of implementing more effective aid so that those countries can advance their development programs, receive financial aid in time to alleviate the burden, not only of inflation, but of oil price increases, and to carry out survey and exploitation programs on other sources of energy which will make them less dependent on oil imports. Priority should be given to cooperation with countries with fewer resources.

Venezuela, as other member countries, has carried out an intensive activity in the field of international financial cooperation. It has bilateral programs with Central American and Caribbean countries. Twice it has submitted to OPEC members--during the ordinary conference of ministers held in Geneva in June 1979 and in the Caracas conference in December 1979--two repositions to the OPEC special fund: the first, for $800 million and the second, together with other member countries, for an additional $1.6 billion.

During the recent finance ministers meeting, it was agreed to make effective the proposal for the reposition of the first $800 million. We are waiting for the second meeting to be held in Quito in March, to see that all governments, through their finance ministers, can authorize the contribution of the amount agreed on during the oil ministers meeting in Caracas.

Algeria and Venezuela suggested at the conference in Caracas the creation of a development agency to carry out all OPEC financial cooperation programs to be more effective than those carried out so far.

The transformation of the legal-economic structure currently being discussed by the working group appointed by the special fund governors committee is of special importance for OPEC's future financial cooperation with developing countries which do not export oil.

In a short time, that institution should become the most effective, flexible and expedient financial branch of the organization, solving difficulties in the balance of payments, development projects and the creation of energy sources in many countries of the Third World. In time, the OPEC special fund could become a multiphase institution with the capacity to invest in financial markets in order to concentrate the resources of its members, so that it can contribute to the transformation of international monetary systems and act as a development agency for the Third World. It should, therefore, receive the most decisive support at meetings to take place in the next 3 months.

I embarked upon this interesting tour of the Arab OPEC member countries to carry out, with these friendly Arab countries that extended their generous hospitality to us, talks designed to strengthen OPEC unity, achieved through cooperation with the Arab countries through the 20 years of struggle in defense of our common interests. In this regard, it is obvious that the best path to that end is the strengthening of our own bilateral relations and the mutual demonstrations of real good will which, gratifyingly for the Venezuelans, we received and tendered throughout the course of our visit. As is our custom, this visit was maintained completely removed from all extremism and was fully coherent and in harmony with the principles and realities which determine the moderation that we practice in our international policy, a moderation whose guidelines and positions have always received great respect from our OPEC partners.

Our own national intersts explain the stimulus that I am prepared to give during my administration to our bilateral relations with all the OPEC countries. To have better relations, dealings and acquaintance with each other will permit us to act with more confidence and solidarity.

I am convinced of the need to go beyond simple economic agreements to have OPEC play the role that is definitely reserved for it in the world. In this regard, I have frankly insisted on the proposal that--based on the premise that the other developing countries are the natural allies of OPEC--there be a special effort to consolidate, unite and project this alliance in order to preserve it from the influence that the industrialized countries seek to exert over the developing ones to confuse them and continue to enjoy longstanding advantages.

The strengthening, development and achievement of a new dimension for our bilateral relations; the strengthening of OPEC and our relations with other developing countries by the execution of a broad program of cooperation and understanding; the need for proper and timely preparations for the upcoming OPEC summit meeting and for the dialog with the industrialized countries have been the basic ideas that have guided my efforts throughout the visit which ends today with this synopsis that I have attempted to present at the headquarters of our institution.

I am accompanied this afternoon by the distinguished professor Dr. A. Salam, winner of the Nobel Prize for physics, who is an enthusiastic supporter of this idea. In fact, it was in talks with him in Caracas that this proposal that I have presented for the consideration of the OPEC leaders was generated. All the countries, without exception, have been very receptive to the idea and we have agreed to request that our oil ministers proceed with the respective studies and efforts which, once concluded, may be submitted for consideration to a conference of ministers who will make the corresponding decisions.

I must note, very especially, that I encountered a great and legitimate concern over the dangers to peace that exist in this region. Venezuela, which shares this concern, has offered its best offices, within the limits of its abilities, and all necessary cooperation to achieve peace. The destiny of the Middle East is not separate from that of the rest of the world.

I have also observed with great satisfaction the growing agreement that exists among the member countries of the organization that I have visited with regard to the not-very-easy search for a single oil price system as well as their agreement on the need to take action with regard to production levels.

There was a fruitful and broad exchange of ideas regarding the strategy for development of our organization. This stragety must include our actions to achieve a new international order.

I conclude this trip very hopeful and optimistic regarding the future of OPEC.

To the extent that we strengthen ourselves and consolidate the relations of all kinds among our countries, including the progressive development of mechanisms of political consultation, we will contribute to the achievement of increasing unity and coherence that will allow OPEC to attain its objectives of justice, stability and world peace.

Within the sphere of South-South cooperation, the path of agreement among our peoples is also the path of the entire Third World, which through international cooperation and regional and subregional integration processes seeks to consolidate its forces, efficiently promote the instruments of a new international order and guarantee its presence and participation in decisions that affect mankind's present and future.

Participation and the harmonious distribution of power are the keys to this era of transition and change that the world is experiencing. What at present looms as a new confrontation between the superpowers would be a clear step backward that would affect all men.

The common destiny cannot continue to be decided by a few. The participation of all is a guarantee of peace. Peace, which presupposes order within a framework of justice, is the most definite, clear and desired hope of anguished contemporary mankind.

Crowd Welcomes Returning President

PA180219 Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 2134 GMT 17 Feb 80 PA

[Speech by Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins, greeting crowd outside airport on his return from Middle East tour--live]

[Text] My dear friends: I have returned from a very long trip of over 30,000 km on the Colossus [name of plane] of the Venezuelan international airlines, VIASA, to which I wish to pay a tribute. I extend it to the entire command and cabin crew and all those who were responsible for the flight.

I can say that during these days that I have been away from the fatherland have been filled with extensive work to strengthen Venezuela's relations with the Arab OPEC member countries and to revitalize relations with Austria and Spain. Everywhere there was a magnificent welcome and a great reception regarding Venezuela's positions, especially its posture of solidarity with the Third World. Therefore, I can really say that the tour has been a success for the country which I represent. [applause]

I wish to thank you [repeated shouts of Luis Herrera]. I wish to thank you, who have been so kind on this carnival Sunday as to come here to welcome me, to receive me and the members of the team which accompanied me and to give us this warm welcome.

I can tell you that at no time in the course of my trip did I forget two things: first, our basic commitment continues to be to the poor; [repeated shouts of Luis Herrera, friend, the people are with you] second, that my tour was at no time for entertainment or recreation, but a working tour because that is what I have requested of Venezuela: to work to build a great country that is open to all. Many thanks, my dear friends and I wish happiness for you and all your relatives. [applause; repeated shouts of Luis Herrera]

JANA REPORTS JOINT LIBYAN-VENEZUELAN COMMUNIQUE

For reportage on the joint Libyan-Venezuelan communique issued in Libya, see the North Africa section of the 12 February Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT.

PRESIDENT HERRERA CAMPINS VISITS ARABIAN PENINSULA

For reportage on Venezuelan President Luis Herrera's visit to Saudi Arabia and other Arabian Peninsula countries, see the Arabian Peninsula section of the 11 February Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

PRESIDENT MEETS WITH SPAIN'S SUAREZ IN TENERIFE

For reportage on Luis Herrera Campins' talks with Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez, see the Spain section of the 19 February West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

HERRERA CAMPINS ARRIVES IN AUSTRIA

For coverage of President Herrera Campins' and Foreign Minister Zambrano Velasco's visit to Austria, see the Austria section of the 19 February Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

BELGIAN, DANISH EMBASSIES IN MEXICO CITY OCCUPIED

PA181843 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1840 GMT 18 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Feb (EFE)--The Belgian and Danish embassies in Mexico City have been taken over by members of a self-styled "National Democratic Popular Front."

Diplomats, Workers 'Not Hostages'

PA181915 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1853 GMT 18 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Feb (EFE)--The Belgian and Danish embassies in Mexico City were occupied today by militants of two leftist groups acting jointly.

The Danish Embassy was occupied by a score of members of the National Democratic Popular Front [Frente Nacional Democratico Popular], who explained that they did not take the diplomats or workers of the embassy hostage. The Belgian Embassy was similarly occupied by the National Independent Committee for Political Prisoners and persecuted and missing persons [Comite Nacional Independiente Pro Presos, Perseguidos y Desaparecidos Politicos].

The occupiers of the Belgian Embassy said that they are demanding the release of political prisoners and information on the whereabouts of those arrested. A Belgian diplomat by the name of Bearden said that contact has already been made with Enrique Olivares Santana, Secretary of the Government, who agreed to meet with the occupiers.

The two occupations were carried out peacefully. The occupiers said that they did not know how long they would remain in the two embassies.

17 Held in Danish Embassy

PA181948 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1922 GMT 18 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Seventeen persons, including the ambassador, remain locked in the offices of the Danish Embassy in Mexico, which was occupied today by a group of leftists. The occupiers have remained in the reception room of the embassy, the building's doorman told EFE.

The embassy offices were occupied at 1125 (1725 GMT) by some 20 members of the National Democratic Popular Front and the National Independent Committee for Political Prisoners and Persecuted and Missing Persons.

Those two groups occupied the Swiss Embassy in Mexico some 8 months ago. Their spokesman said that the diplomats are not hostages. A spokesman of the government secretariat indicated that he did not have information "for the time being."

Release of Prisoners Demanded

PA182210 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2023 GMT 18 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Feb (EFE)--The Belgian and Danish embassies in Mexico were seized today by unarmed groups of leftists demanding the liberation of political prisoners and protesting the country's situation.

The occupants emphasized that in neither of the two cases would they hold diplomats or embassy employees as hostages, even though these people may remain at the occupied offices.

The Belgian and Danish ambassadors, Ronald Wateeuw and Vagn Hoelgaard respectively, have met with the occupants and with Mexican officials, especially from the Government (interior) Secretariat.

The occupants are members of the National Democratic Popular Front and the National Independent Committee for Political Prisoners and Persecuted and Missing Persons. They said that these persons include peasants, workers and Mexico City slum residents. The two groups make similar demands and act the same; however, they emphasize they are different.

The group occupying the Danish Embassy said that it protests the peasant situation in the states of Oaxaca, Guerrero and Hidalgo as well as dismissals, repression in rural areas, unemployment and what they called the Mexican Government's "starvation policy." They also demand the release of 100 political prisoners and 600 persons who have disappeared.

According to unofficial reports, Government Secretary Enrique Olivares Santana agreed to meet with group representatives to negotiate their demands.

Mexican authorities have stated that the police will not intervene.

Likewise, the embassy occupants have said they do not have specific plans about their stay at the embassies, although they did say it would be peaceful.

The exact number of embassy employees detained has not been revealed; apparently there are 11 at the Danish Embassy and a similar number at the Belgian Embassy.

Some 8 months ago, these same two groups peacefully occupied the Swiss Embassy in Mexico. The situation was solved after a week of negotiations when the Swiss Government asked Mexican officials to evict the occupants.

Occupiers Fear Police Reprisals

PA182145 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2120 GMT 18 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Feb (EFE)--The police guarantee the peaceful evacuation of the occupants of the Danish Embassy, the commander of the operation at the Danish Embassy said this afternoon. Col Augusto Galvan Suarez, who is in charge of the area, told EFE that Danish Ambassador Vagn Hoelgaard informed him of the occupants' intention to vacate the building but that they feared police reprisals. Colonel Galvan Suarez personally told EFE that he had guaranteed the Danish ambassador that the occupants would not be arrested.

Hold Press Conference

PA190030 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2331 GMT 18 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Feb (EFE)--The diplomats who remain in the Belgian and Danish embassies in Mexico City, which were taken over today by leftist groups, are not there as hostages. Felipe Martinez Soriano, leader of the National Democratic Popular Front, said that his group does not take hostages and only resorts to the occupation of diplomatic offices to "make itself heard."

At a press conference, the leader of the occupiers said that the embassies will be vacated as soon as their demands are met. These demands are: the release of political prisoners, the reappearance of missing persons, and an end to repression in the Mexican countryside.

Martinez Soriano, a former dean of the University of Oaxaca, added that the bureaucracy and the apathy of the authorities have kept many political prisoners who were granted amnesty by the Lopez Portillo administration from being released.

Martinez Soriano said that repression in Mexico is a reality, although it has not reached the levels of other countries in the southern part of the American Continent. He said that his group took over the embassies to force the government to hold a dialog, although he refused to say what would happen if the authorities refuse to talk to them.

In August 1979, this same group occupied the Swiss Embassy in Mexico City and presented basically the same demands. The government, however, refused to respond until they left the premises, which they eventually did.

Martinez Soriano said today that the occupation of the Swiss Embassy allowed some political prisoners to regain their freedom and that now his organization is only waiting for a reply from the authorities, which would indicate that they are willing to hold a dialog.

Martinez Soriano said that the Belgian and Danish embassies were selected because they belong to countries where human rights are respected. The press conference was held at the National Social Communications Center [Centro Nacional de Comunicacion Social--CENCOS].

Danish Envoy Interviewed

NC190806 Paris AFP in English 0749 GMT 19 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Copenhagen, Feb. 19 (AFP)--Twenty Mexicans occupying the entrance of Denmark's embassy in Mexico City since yesterday are apparently unarmed and have shown no violence, Danish Ambassador Vagn Hoelgaard said today.

In a telephone interview with Danish radio, Mr. Hoelgaard said he was one of 12 people not allowed to leave the embassy. He said the Mexicans were behind a bullet-proof plate glass door and had a microphone. They had plastic bags with them, but these were thought to contain only food and clothes. Their sit-in would probably end within a few hours, the ambassador said.

Militants have also occupied the Belgian Embassy in Mexico City, which is in the same building as the Danish mission. The People's National Democratic Front yesterday claimed responsibility for both occupations.

In today's interview, Mr. Hoelgaard indicated that members of the National Committee for the Defence of Political Prisoners were negotiating with the Mexican interior minister. "We are better off than the Belgians, whose embassy has been entirely occupied by six or seven intruders," he said.

SHAH REPORTEDLY TO LEAVE UPON RELEASE OF U.S. HOSTAGES

PA172108 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1554 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[By Francisco Rubiales]

[Excerpt] Panama City, 15 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Two months after Shah Reza Pahlavi's arrival in Panama, his presence in the country is daily becoming more uncomfortable. However, the basic objective of his arrival, the release of the U.S. hostages in Tehran, appears about to be attained.

When Mohammad Reza Pahlavi arrived with his wife on the Panamanian Island of Contadora on 15 December, Panama received him like a "Christmas gift," full of investment possibilities. Many warned, however, that this gift "could become poison."

Official sources told ACAN-EFE today that the overall results of the Iranian monarch's visit to Panama "have been highly positive." The imperial Persian family's departure from the United States to Panama permitted elements of detente to be introduced into the crisis of the U.S. hostages captured in Tehran, a conflict which around that Christmas time had placed the world on the verge of a nuclear conflagration. By accepting the shah in its territory as a political refugee, Panama also gave an electoral push to U.S. President Jimmy Carter, considered to be "a friend of Panama," who in those days was debating whether or not to apply drastic sanctions to Ayatollah Khomeyni's regime.

On the same day the Persian monarch arrived on Contadora, Panamanian President Aristides Royo said in exclusive statements to ACAN-EFE that the only reasons for receiving the Pahlavi family were humanitarian ones and the hope of contributing to the solution of the world crisis that threatened war.

Sources close to the shah told ACAN-EFE that the imperial family is seeking a new country in which to reside, since they intend to leave Panama when the crisis of the hostages in Tehran has been resolved. However, the source declined to give a list of possible countries that would receive the shah.

IRANIAN LEGAL ADVISER VIEWS STATUS OF SHAH'S EXTRADITION

PA190340 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 18 Feb 80 PA

[Jose Montano interview with Juan Materno Vasquez, Panamanian attorney who represents the Government of Iran in the case of the extradition of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, former shah of Iran; date and place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Juan Materno Vasquez] First we should establish what is the legal position of former Shah Reza Pahlavi in Panama. He is not a political exile. I very much doubt that he is a territorial exile. Apparently, he is a refugee in Panama.

[Question] Vasquez, what do you think about the official statements regarding the extradition of former Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi?

[Answer] Your question is very pertinent, Montano. I am glad you asked it. Panama, like all other countries, must be very careful in the application of its laws; it must be strict because otherwise it could be said some day that in this case, clear dispositions of the law were not implemented.

For example: If the Panamanian Government claims that the 60-day deadline to issue the formal demand is running and will expire on 22 March, as I have read somewhere, then why has not this gentleman been arrested? According to the law, the 60-day deadline countdown begins when the arrest is decreed. Another thing. Why does the foreign minister speak about Shah Reza Pahlavi being in a huge jail, when here in Panama neither the administrative code nor the penal code, nor any law establishes a confinement penalty, which includes the settling of one person in a given part of the country prohibiting him to leave that area?

Another remarkable situation, strictly speaking on the legal aspects, is this: why have not his documents, his papers, been taken by writ since the law states that an arrest should be decreed and the papers of the person whose extradition is being requested should be taken by writ with just the notice that an extradition request will be presented.

[Question] Vasquez, speaking of modern and old laws, what kind of legislation is facing Iran in requesting the extradition, and the former shah in being subjected to a process of this nature?

[Answer] Regarding old laws, they are old only chronologically speaking. Let's talk about the law in effect. This is Law 44 of 1930. This is the law that will apply in this case because Panama and Iran, as I have said before, have not signed a bilateral extradition treaty and they have not signed any multilateral extradition treaty. The Panamanian law has many defects. Panama has participated in three inter-American extradition conventions. The national law is way behind the two modern conventions that were signed after the law was issued.

So there you have situations that cannot be understood. For example, the law speaks of the executive power but it does not identify this executive power. In Panama, since the Constitution of 1946, and later, in the one of 1972, the law speaks of executive organ and when it refers to it, it explains who comprises it: the president and the respective [government] minister. This is why it is strange to hear the foreign minister speak of extraditions in this case, when he has nothing to do with that. He does not share the executive with the president. The government minister does. He is the one who has to prepare legal proceedings to later, after consulting with the president, issue a resolution.

What is happening with all these omissions? The defense of the person being claimed is being determined by the will of another. This is so because the authority of the executive is practically absolute. For example, in characterizing the crime he can say that it is a political crime or a politically connected crime without defining the terms. For example, it could happen that this gentleman may be charged with personally ordering the execution of an order contrary to human rights. The executive could say that this is a crime connected to a political crime, and he may not grant the extradition.

[Question] Vasquez, considering all these elements, including the political factor in this case, what would be the future of an Iranian extradition request involving former Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi?

[Answer] I cannot give my opinion regarding the political implications this problem may have. My opinion must be from a strictly legal point of view. If the Iranian demand is made according to the law, and it demonstrates that this gentleman is in effect a person charged with common crimes, then the ruling, obviously, must be favorable to this extradition request.

The problem we have--perhaps this is the reason for your question regarding the political implications--is the statements made by, well, the president of the republic. He emphatically has discarded an extradition possibility. I very much respect the president as a jurist and as chief of state. I am sure that when the demand is filed on the basis of the Panamanian law--and if it is established that all, or some, of the charges against this gentleman were contemplated by penal laws--then Panama, for the sake of its national prestige, will have to extradite this gentleman.

[Question] What will be the future of this case, which is polemic [words indistinct] because of time since there is a deadline established by the law?

[Answer] That is an interesting question. This is different from a legal proceeding where deadlines are established. With a basis on legal proceedings I could mathematically tell you: Well, this is a process that should end within so much time, only by computing deadlines. However, in administrative matters, this is a process that could be concluded in a day, or that could be prolonged. How could it be concluded in 1 day? Because the law establishes only one provision favorable to the person whose extradition is being requested, that of allowing him to present any evidence he believes necessary for his defense. It could happen that the executive may not find the evidence relevant and may render a decision right away.

Speaking of the factors that could prolong the process, these would be concurrent factors. No?

[Question] There is one more factor, Vasquez. The fact that the former shah could be executed if he is eventually seized by the Iranian authorities. What relation could there be between this and the extradition process?

[Answer] As long as it is not known with which crime this gentleman is being charged, and the penalty for that crime, it would be somewhat risky to say that he could be executed. This is why it is difficult here to have a notion of the crime and the penalty. It would have to be proven by former Shah Reza Pahlavi that the crime for which he is being requested is punishable with a death sentence in Iran. But this has to be said and proven by presenting a copy of the law that applies.

It could happen that it will not be this way. It could happen that the Government of Iran will say, no, that crime is punishable with a 20-year sentence. Then the idea that this is a crime punishable by death will vanish.

CANAL TREATIES WITH COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA FACE REJECTION

PA181554 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 18 Feb 80 p 22 PA

[Text] None of the treaties signed by our government with either Costa Rica or Colombia will be approved by the National Legislation Council.

The above was learned from official sources when Carlos Calzadilla, secretary general of the Legislative Commission [as received], was asked about the fate of the treaty signed with Costa Rica.

The treaties signed with Costa Rica and Colombia authorize the toll-free transit of their warships through the Panama Canal, the only difference being that Costa Rica is granted this for 25 years while Colombia is granted this privilege indefinitely.

According to Calzadilla, both treaties commit future generations of Panamanians and if the executive branch wishes to grant this privilege it will have to look somewhere else, because the National Assembly of Corregimiento's legislative body will not grant it.

FOREIGN MINISTERS TO MEET IN SAN JOSE 14-16 MARCH

PA152028 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The Central American foreign ministers will meet in San Jose, Costa Rica on 14-16 March. Foreign Ministers Eduardo Castillo Valdez of Guatemala, Fidel Chavez Mena of El Salvador, Eliseo Lopez Cadalso of Honduras and Miguel D'Escoto of Nicaragua will attend. This meeting had been scheduled for the end of January but was postponed at the last minute because some foreign ministers were unable to attend.

The meeting, which will be held at the invitation of Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier, will be used to analyze political, economic, social and cultural problems. The foreign ministers believe the discussion of these subjects is essential, as is the need to speed up the integration process for the joint development of the countries in the area.

Although Central American problems will be discussed, the presence of Panamanian Foreign Minister Carlos Ozores and Dominican Foreign Secretary Emilio Ludovino Gonzalez is considered important. Because those two countries are closely linked with Central American political, economic and cultural subjects, they have been invited to the meeting, which is viewed as very important for the Central American and Caribbean countries.

ECONOMIC MINISTERS TO MEET IN SAN JOSE ON 23 FEBRUARY

PA152028 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The Central American economic ministers will discuss the reorganization of the Central American Common Market [CACM] during a meeting in San Jose on 23 February. The discussion will be based on a study prepared by the Secretariat of Central American Economic Integration [SIECA] at Costa Rica's request. The economic ministers will also discuss a document drafted by the deputy economic ministers who will meet 2 days earlier in San Jose.

As part of the plans for the reorganization of CACM and the efforts to find new markets, the ministers will also analyze the possibility of permitting CACM members to sign bilateral trade agreements. The CACM treaty does not permit the signing of bilateral agreements outside CACM. This has affected the economies of some of the countries. The ministers will also hear a SIECA report on bilateral agreements.

HONDURAN, SALVADORAN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN SAN JOSE

PA182043 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Honduran Foreign Secretary Eliseo Perez Cadalso and Salvadoran Foreign Minister Miguel Chavez Mena will meet at the Presidential House in San Jose at noon to seek a solution to the dispute which has been separating the two nations since 1969. Here are statements by the two foreign ministers when they met on their arrival in San Jose. Their meeting has been termed as an initial contact in the search for peace between Honduras and El Salvador.

[Begin recording in progress] [Perez Cadalso]...The presence of Fidel Chavez as the head of foreign relations of the brother country of El Salvador. His moral standing is well-known. He has a Morazanic [Francisco Morazan was a Central American hero] view of Central America in everything dealing with the defense of democracy and peace.

I know that as a representative of the Salvadoran Government he is equal to the task at hand. As Honduran foreign secretary I am very pleased that he is here in Costa Rica to seek an honorable and just solution for the two parties. I greet him as a colleague and brother and hope that we will find some formula for solving our differences because brothers and neighbors such as Honduras and El Salvador have no reason to continue the situation which has existed for the past few years.

[Chavez Mena] I am very pleased to be meeting here with my dear brother and colleague, Perez Cadalso. I had the pleasure of meeting him when he worked in the Organization of Central American States in El Salvador. Since then I have been aware of his moral qualities and I am very pleased to meet with him again. I think Central America is currently experiencing great political activity. We are laying the groundwork for the history of years to come. We have a great responsibility toward the new generations and because of this it is important that we advance in the solution of this famous dispute between brother countries. I am sure that the Honduran Government and Eliseo Perez Cadalso are as determined as myself and the Salvadoran Government to achieve this. I believe that if this good will exists we can make progress towards finding a solution. As the Honduran foreign secretary said, our goal is to find a just and equitable solution for both countries and I am sure we will achieve this. [end recording]

COSTA RICA

FOREIGN MINISTER EXPLAINS ARMS PURCHASES; U.S. AGREEMENT

PA152110 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Report by Edgar Arce from the Legislative Assembly]

[Text] The Costa Rican foreign minister today appeared before the Legislative Assembly after he was asked to explain the agreement between the United States and Costa Rica for the establishment of the U.S. military mission in Costa Rica. The foreign minister was accompanied by the deputy foreign minister.

He quickly explained that this agreement has not been ratified and therefore is not in force.

The deputies then heard explanations on the methods used for signing this type of agreement. The agreement which the foreign minister referred to was established in 1945 and was ratified every 5 years thereafter until 1975 when the U.S. Government did not want to further extend the agreement although the Costa Rican foreign minister at that time, Gonzalo Facio, had requested this extension.

The commission deputies then continued with their work and made some decisions which included calling the comptroller general to explain to the commission some matters related with the purchase of weapons, such as whether the comptrollership authorized those purchases. There are some differences between the amounts mentioned by the comptroller and those mentioned by former Minister Charpentier Gamboa. Public Security Minister Juan Echeverria will also be called to appear before the commission to provide the documents on the purchase of weapons which Mr Charpentier mentioned in his last appearance at the commission.

At 1300 today, two commission lawyers and the deputies of the commission will go to the Bank of Costa Rica for a work session. They will study the bank accounts of Mario Charpentier to see if they can find the deposits made with money sent by the U.S. Government as Charpentier testified in his appearance before the commission.

So this is the point where the investigations are now. The commission will go to the Bank of Costa Rica at 1300 to study the bank accounts of Charpentier, who said they are open for any investigation.

COMMISSION MIGHT QUERY U.S. CONGRESS ON ARMS PURCHASES

PA152111 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Deputy Mario Devandas Brenes, chairman of the commission investigating the arms buildup in Costa Rica, has said the commission will ask the Legislative Assembly to request that the U.S. Congress investigate the reasons why the U.S. Government sent checks made out to the Costa Rican Public Security Ministry. According to Devandas, this motion could be included in the report which his commission will issue on the subject.

HEALTH MINISTRY MEDICAL WORKERS GO ON STRIKE

PA181949 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpt] Approximately 550 medical workers of the Health Ministry who work in the Ministry's central offices and 78 health centers began a strike at 0700 today. As a result of the strike, medical services by the ministry's doctors, dentists and other medical workers have been halted. Only emergency cases are being treated.

The medical workers are demanding the approval of reforms to the Civil Service Statute. They went on strike because the Legislature did not approve the reforms which would have permitted them to obtain salaries similar to those of their colleagues in the Social Security Institute.

EL SALVADOR

ARCHBISHOP ASKS CARTER NOT TO GRANT MILITARY AID

PA172102 Paris AFP in Spanish 1809 GMT 17 Feb 80 PA

[By Osvaldo Tcherkaski]

[Text] San Salvador, 17 Feb (AFP)--At the end of his Sunday sermon, Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero appealed to U.S. President Jimmy Carter to stop military aid to El Salvador and to guarantee that he will not intervene in El Salvador.

In a religious message which denounced the country's crisis and was really a political manifesto, Monsignor Romero announced that he will send a letter to the U.S. President today asking him not to send military aid to the current government and to guarantee that he will not intervene in deciding the Salvadoran people's destiny. Monsignor Romero indicated that he decided to send the letter in light of reports that the United States plans to supply military equipment and logistics and intelligence aid to (?three) Salvadoran Army battalions. In the letter, Romero stated he is making this request because Carter is a Christian and because Carter has said he defends human rights. Romero asks Carter to prove this as military aid would only intensify the injustice against and repression of the Salvadoran people.

In his sermon entitled "The Poverty of Blessedness Is the Strength of the Real Liberation of the People," the San Salvador archbishop said neither the current junta nor the Christian Democrats which form part of the junta are ruling the country.

They only appear to be doing so for the country's international image. Romero said Tuesday's massacre and the eviction of the occupiers of the Christian Democratic headquarters show that the country is being ruled by the most repressive sectors of the security forces. It is also evident, he added, that the government lacks popular support and has resorted to foreign powers such as the United States and Venezuela, countries to which the Christian Democrats turn. Christian Democrats say they support a supposedly antioligarchic alternative but in reality they are an antipopular alternative, he added.

The church leader said political power is in the hands of unscrupulous officers who only know how to repress the people and support the interests of the Salvadoran oligarchy.

In an attack which left the government and Christian Democrats without the moral support which government junta member Col Adolfo Arnoldo Majano had requested on Friday, Msgr Oscar Romero charged that the current junta is more repressive than the previous military regimes.

He also criticized the Christian Democrats for hiding from international public opinion the bloody repression against the people and the fact that the country is being ruled by the right. He asked that party to analyze not only its intentions which undoubtedly might be good, but also the consequences of its presence in the government.

Stressing that he favors the program of a popular government, the San Salvador archbishop warned that the oligarchy is taking advantage of the government's weakness and is ready to prevent the promised reforms by using force. He also warned that the extreme right is planning a military coup and a general strike of private enterprises. He added that if this is successful "it would be unforgivable." Such a victory would cost a lot of blood and would not silence the people's call for justice, he added. I ask the oligarchy to think about the message of the gospels: woe be unto you because tomorrow you shall weep. It is better to take off your rings in time before your hands are cut off.

He also warned the popular organizations and their armed groups that the church rejects irrational tactics and condemns the seizure of churches, public buildings and embassies. Romero said such actions in no way favor the process of unity of all the popular and democratic forces. He also condemned the kidnapings, executions and revengeful acts committed by the revolutionary military organizations. The archbishop demanded that those organizations end the occupation of churches, including the metropolitan cathedral, for Lent which begins on Wednesday.

The sermon was delivered in the Sacred Heart Church filled with people who constantly interrupted Monsignor Romero's words with applause. He is viewed as a Latin American prophet.

FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVEZ RETURNS FROM PERU

PA152305 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1415 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Salvadoran Foreign Minister Dr Fidel Chavez returned from Lima, Peru, the night before last. He went there to meet personally with the illustrious jurist, Dr Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero, and discuss the status of the negotiations with Honduras. Dr Chavez's trip was also due to the fact that he was recently appointed and he is trying to get up to date on the negotiations.

JUNTA MEMBER RETURNS FROM MEDICAL VISIT TO U.S.

PA190357 San Salvador Radio Cadena Central in Spanish 1309 GMT 18 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Col Jaime Abdul Gutierrez, one of the members of the revolutionary government junta, returned to the country on Saturday.

Colonel Gutierrez had gone to Houston, Texas for medical attention, to which he has reportedly responded satisfactorily.

ARMY SPOKESMAN DENIES SUBMARINE ATTACK

PA152206 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1224 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador (ACAN-EFE)--Wednesday's routine military exercises along the Pacific coast by the Salvadoran Armed Forces led to rumors that enemy submarines were supposedly in the area, an armed forces spokesman has said. A report aired by a local radio station on Wednesday said the army's hand in preventing the disembarkment of forces on the Salvadoran coasts had been duly "confirmed." The report was beamed to Central America.

The armed forces spokesman said it would be left up to the courts to determine whether the station had committed a crime.

CONTINUING REPORTAGE ON SPANISH EMBASSY SEIZURE

Evacuation If Demands Met

PA160024 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2343 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[By Rosendo Majano H.]

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 15 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Spanish Embassy, taken over 11 days ago, will definitely be vacated tomorrow if 19 leftwing 28 February People's Leagues (LP-28) members are released by San Salvador's Fifth Criminal Court judge, Carlos Argueta, the 21-year-old student who commanded the embassy takeover on 5 February told ACAN-EFE this afternoon. The Spanish Embassy is located in Flor Blanca neighborhood in the eastern section of the metropolitan area.

This correspondent was admitted to the embassy where embassy officials Juan Carlos de Ranero and Manuel de la Helguera are the only remaining hostages out of the original 12 including Ambassador Victor Sanchez-Mesas y Juste. Majano noticed that the 20 left-wingers who have occupied the embassy are posted in strategic places which until recently had been unguarded.

Carlos added that tomorrow when they are certain their comrades are free and safe they will open the embassy doors and leave. He did not say how they will leave "for security reasons," but it is certain the building will be turned over to the mediators in the negotiations, the ambassadors from Italy, Mexico and Ecuador, and Pedro Bermejo, the Spanish Foreign Ministry's officer in charge of Spanish-American affairs.

He added that a document has been signed in which the LP-28 promises not to make any more demands than the already existing ones.

The leftwinger had originally asked for 16 prison inmates charged with armed actions in the east and in the capital. All but five whose whereabouts are unknown have been released.

Argueta said if the judge orders a single one of the 19 LP-28 members to remain under arrest, the settlement will be called off and the embassy takeover will continue sine die. It is expected the inmates will be released at noon tomorrow when the inquiry period, totaling 72 hours in this country, expires.

Panamanian Ambassador's Efforts

PA161545 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0031 GMT 16 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 15 Feb (LATIN)--Panamanian Ambassador David Manuel Pere Ramos today met with the revolutionary government junta to intercede for the release of 23 members of 28 February People's Leagues (LP-28), diplomatic sources have said.

The ambassador met this morning with junta member Col Adolfo Arnoldo Majano and requested the release of the leftist militants. The sources said that in doing this the Panamanian ambassador fulfilled the commitment he made before his release yesterday by members of the LP-28 who held his embassy for 24 hours.

The 23 members of the LP-28 were arrested Tuesday when police broke into the headquarters of the Christian Democratic Party to free a group of hostages. At least five persons died in that incident. The political party's headquarters had been seized at the end of last month.

Prison Inmates Released

PA162009 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1945 GMT 16 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 16 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Ernesto Alfonso Buitrago, Fifth Criminal Court judge in San Salvador, shortly after 1300 (1900 GMT) today released most of the 19 prison inmates wanted by the leftwing 28 February People's Leagues (LP-28) as a condition to leave the Spanish Embassy.

He confirmed the temporary arrest of Rene Aparicio Palacios, Benjamin Chicas Zepeda and Roger Alberto Blandino Nerio under charges of depriving several people of their freedom at the Christian Democratic Party office, where they were captured along with the released LP-28 members during a violent police bid to evacuate the place.

Carlos Argueta, who led the Embassy takeover here, told ACAN-EFE this afternoon the three individuals whom the judge has ordered to remain under temporary arrest may be out on bond this very day. "We are trying to get someone to post it," Argueta said. He added he would consult the lists provided by the Treasury police to see if the LP-28 demand has been met.

Argueta stated that as soon as his comrades' discharge is confirmed, the Spanish Embassy will be turned over to the ambassadors from Italy, Mexico and Ecuador and to Pedro Bermejo, the Spanish Foreign Ministry officer in charge of Spanish-American affairs. "That could be this afternoon," he noted.

Demands Unmet, Occupation Indefinite

PA162222 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2131 GMT 16 Feb 80 PA

[By Rosendo Majano]

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 16 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The leftist 28 February People's Leagues (LP-28) will continue occupying the Spanish Embassy for an indefinite time, a spokesman for the LP-28, which since 5 February have controlled the Spanish diplomatic mission in San Salvador, told ACAN-EFE this afternoon.

The spokesman said the resolution issued today by the judge of the Fifth Penal Court, releasing 13 of the 19 leftists demanded by the LP-28, does not meet the demands of the negotiating commission.

Carlos Argueta, leader of the group occupying the Spanish Embassy, said all the prisoners they have demanded must be released, otherwise they will remain in the embassy located in Flor Blanca district on San Salvador's east side.

Judge Ernesto Alfonso Buitrago issued a ruling today at the end of the time stipulated for a judicial inquest, which in El Salvador is 72 hours, ordering the release of 13 of the persons arrested during the violent eviction of the occupants of the Christian Democratic Party headquarters on 12 February in which a police officer was killed. The ruling says that Rene Aparicio Palacios, Benjamin Chicas Zepeda and Roger Alberto Blandino Nerio must remain in prison temporarily until they post a bond for $400.

The LP-28 have been informed, however, that these three prisoners have been formally arraigned, thus complicating the matter.

Pedro Bermejo, the charge d'affaires at the Spanish Embassy, talked to the judge this afternoon but what they discussed has not been disclosed.

Spanish Envoy Continues Talks

PA180134 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2357 GMT 17 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 17 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Pedro Bermejo, the Spanish Government envoy, is still holding long negotiations with the 28 February People's Leagues (LP-28) Political Commission in an effort to have them leave the embassy they seized on 5 February.

Manuel de la Helguera, the embassy's secretary, and Juan Carlos de Ranero, an embassy counselor, were sleeping inside the embassy this afternoon, very tired from the confinement they have been subjected to.

A LP-28 spokesman told ACAN-EFE that they will abandon the embassy when the Salvadoran Government releases Roger Blandino, Benjamin Chicas Zepeda and Rene Aparicio Palacios, three of their colleagues who are in prison.

Justice Department officials have said, however, that there is a serious legal problem because these three are being held after pleading guilty to charges filed against them for armed violations of the law.

Occupation Ends

PA182241 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2224 GMT 18 Feb 80 PA

[By Mauro Espinoza]

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 18 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Members of the Leftist 28 February People's Leagues (LP-28) who have been occupying the Spanish Embassy in San Salvador since 5 February, withdrew from the embassy this afternoon.

At the time of the withdrawal, the LP-28 members released their last two hostages: embassy counselor Juan Carlos de Ranero and embassy Chancellor Manuel de la Helguera.

The evacuation has taken place 14 days after LP-28 activists occupied the embassy to demand the release of 16 leftist militants arrested by the authorities.

Pedro Bermejo, special envoy of the Spanish Government, and the ambassador of Italy and Mexico to the Salvadoran Government were present at the time of the withdrawal.

The three diplomats formed part of a negotiating committee which has been talking with LP-28 leaders since the day of the occupation in an effort to bring about the evacuation.

ACTIVISTS RELEASE 400 HOSTAGES AT OCCUPIED BANK

PA161725 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1712 GMT 16 Feb 80 PA

[By Rosendo Majano]

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 16 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Leftist militants today released some 400 hostages at the occupied Agricultural Development Bank (BFA). They are now holding only 70 hostages to guarantee that the authorities will not evict them from the bank.

The occupation, which began on 14 February, is to demand a decrease in the prices of farm materials. This had already been announced on Monday by the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry.

Activists of the Salvadoran Christian Peasants Federation (FECCAS) and the Farmworkers Union (UTC) have begun negotiations with BFA executives. ACAN-EFE was told at noon today that "they are going well."

BPR OCCUPIES LABOR MINISTRY OFFICES, HOLDS 20 PEOPLE

PA182239 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2041 GMT 18 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Santa Ana, El Salvador, 18 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Members of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc [BPR] today occupied the offices of the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry and kidnaped some 20 persons.

This is the seventh government institution occupied by the BPR in various parts of the country and the second time that this same department has been occupied during the past 4 months.

Last October and November the BPR held some 10 hostages in Santa Ana. At that time, the main offices of the Economy and Labor Ministry in San Salvador were also occupied for 12 days.

A BPR spokesman said that the occupation was in "solidarity" with the occupation of other government institutions in San Salvador and other parts of the country.

BPR SEIZES FOREIGN TRADE INSTITUTE

PA152031 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1940 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 15 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Members of the Leftist Peoples Revolutionary Bloc this afternoon seized the installations of the Salvadoran Foreign Trade Institute [ISCE] and are holding 78 persons hostage. Most of the hostages are employees of the institution.

The invaders immediately hung up posters and banners criticizing the authorities and demanding social benefits for the workers of the Ilopango Free Zone, which is 12 km east of this capital, and has direct connections with the ISCE.

MILITANTS TAKE HOSTAGES AT TEACHERS WELFARE BOARD

PA182043 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1935 GMT 18 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 18 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Militants of the National Association of Salvadoran Educators [ANDES] at noon today occupied the offices of the Teachers Welfare Board and held at least 100 persons hostage.

The Teachers Welfare Board is an office of the Education Ministry, but it is located in another building. The Education Ministry building was occupied by leftist students on Tuesday 5 February and evacuated 1 week ago.

The ANDES spokesman told ACAN-EFE that the objective of the occupation is to "demand an end to repression against teachers and the release of two apprehended teachers." Teachers Vidal Elfidio Recinos and Agustin Osmin Hernandez disappeared a few days ago after they were allegedly apprehended by the authorities.

In the past few months seven teachers have died at the hands of ultrarightist terrorist gangs. ANDES said that the occupation of the board is for an indefinite period.

BPR OCCUPIES JESUIT UNIVERSITY; HOSTAGES TAKEN

PA160345 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0017 GMT 16 Feb 80 PA

[By Mauro Espinoza Fernandez]

[Text] San Salvador, 15 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The buildings of the Jose Simeon Canas Central American University [UCA], which is run by Jesuits, were occupied tonight by activists of the People's Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) who are holding some 100 executives and administrative employees hostage. The hostages include Jesuit Ignacio Ellacuria, rector of the university; Jesuit Francisco Javier Ibizate, dean of the School of Economic Sciences, and other department chiefs and administrative employees.

The occupation of the university installations was carried out by students who are members of the 30 July Revolutionary University Front [FUR-30], a wing of the BPR.

The occupiers are demanding that university authorities permit free access to classes. At present aspirants to the prestigious university must submit to a rigorous selection and admission process. They are also asking for an increased university budget and the elimination of other requirements for students.

The university has played a prominent role in Salvadoran political life. It has promoted discussion and debate of controversial aspects of the Salvadoran economy and society. Roman Mayorga, the previous rector of the UCA, or the Catholic University as it is popularly known, was a member of the original revolutionary government junta appointed following the 15 October coup d'etat that ousted Gen Carlos Humberto Romero's regime.

The UCA's definitive participation in the discussion of national problems has caused the university to be the target of the ire of rightist sectors and even of previous governments. The Jesuit campus has been subjected to dynamite attacks on several occasions. Moreover its government subsidy was suspended during Col Arturo Armando Molina's administration on the grounds that state funds were being used "to foment subversion" in the Central American country.

Conservative groups blame the UCA, and particularly the Jesuits, for having created the conditions that led to the violent political crisis which El Salvador has been experiencing for the past several months. This charge is denied by the Jesuits, who maintain that they have merely complied with the precepts of the church's social doctrine and the university's duty to promote social change in any country.

The UCA has, perhaps, played its most prominent role in national political life since the 15 October coup d'etat. In addition to former Rector Mayorga, the government Cabinet established in October was made up primarily of former professors at the university, including former Education Minister Salvador Samayoa. Samayoa announced that he had joined the clandestine Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces (FPL) on 8 January, only 6 days after resigning from his post in the Cabinet. Samayoa's conversion to the clandestine group served to fuel the fire against the UCA, and to support the rightist sectors' charges against the university.

The UCA is also charged with having promoted the 15 October coup d'etat. A document prepared by the university, known popularly as "the yellow paper," is believed to have served as a master plan for the young army officers who staged the coup.

This contention is denied by the military, who maintained that their uprising was necessary because General Romero's regime had "continuously violated human rights and been disrespectful of the law."

The university is in the southwestern sector of the Salvadoran capital and has an extensive campus on which its modern buildings stand out. Many of the university's students are youths from middle class families who can pay the high tuition. The university, however, also gives scholarships and grants to poor students. The center has over 6,000 students. The UCA was founded in 1965 during Col Julio Adalberto Rivera's administration.

University Occupation Ends

PA190137 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1852 GMT 18 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 18 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Jose Simeon Canas Central American University, managed by Jesuit priests, was vacated over the weekend by the members of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc [BPR] which had occupied it on Friday. Rector Ignacio Ellacuria and economic sciences Dean Francisco Javier Ibizate, both Jesuit priests, and several department heads and administrative personnel had been held as hostages.

The 30 July Revolutionary University Front [FUR-30], which is a member of the BPR, worked out the solution because there "existed the possibility of holding talks with the hostages to solve the demands made," said a spokesman for the occupying group. The students were demanding a decrease in school fees and state subsidization of the university.

The BPR is also responsible for the occupation of three state institutions in San Salvador as well as a bank branch in the interior of the country and several Catholic churches.

SIX PERSONS KILLED IN SEVERAL CLASHES

PA162357 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2307 GMT 16 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 16 Feb (LATIN)--Six persons were killed today in different violent incidents in El Salvador while efforts continued to obtain the release of two Spanish diplomats who are being held hostage in their embassy. Three guerrillas were killed and several soldiers wounded in a clash which took place 75 km east of San Salvador and two unidentified bodies with bullet wounds were found on the outskirts of Santa Tecla, according to the police. In the southern suburbs of Scamil the security forces found the body of a man wearing a blindfold and note which said "killed for being a traitor."

FPL KILLS FIVE PEOPLE IN CHALATENANGO

PA181353 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0811 GMT 18 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 18 Feb (LATIN)--The armed forces reported here today that members of the extremist Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces (FPL) have killed five members of a family in Guargila, Chalatenango Department, located 190 km north of San Salvador.

A survivor, the wife of one of those killed, said that some 30 masked men arrived at the house yesterday and opened fire on the family. Before leaving the men identified themselves as FPL members, the official report added.

INTENSIVE PATROLLING ORDERED IN NORTH OF COUNTRY

PA190352 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1755 GMT 18 Feb 80 PA

[Text] (?The armed forces) today ordered intensive patrolling of the northern part of the country after it was learned in the capital that some eight persons, including Supervisor Martin Salvador Aguilar and four members of his family, had been killed in the area.

The killing was attributed to a group of some 30 persons who, according to unofficial reports, are members of the clandestine leftist Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces [FPL].

Three other peasants, considered to be rightists, were killed in that northern rural area, some 80 km north of San Salvador, on the border with Honduras.

Last week a National Guardsman and four peasants were killed by leftist activists, who in communiques accused their victims of collaborating with the deposed government of Gen Carlos Humberto Romero.

GUATEMALA

MINISTER APPROVES OAS RESOLUTION ON SPANISH EMBASSY INCIDENT

PA180338 Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 8 Feb 80 pp 1, 2 PA

[Text] Foreign Minister Rafael Castillo Valdez has told newsmen: "All Guatemalans must channel our conduct within the traditional norms of peace for all Guatemalans, the rules of Christianity and respect among and toward all our compatriots."

The statement was made in reply to a question about how Guatemala's image abroad is to be restored following the regrettable incidents at the Spanish Embassy and the fact that some governments have condemned the attitude taken by the public forces with regard to that problem.

Questioned by newsmen, Foreign Minister Castillo Valdez also mentioned the OAS resolution on the incidents at the embassy. The resolution is considered to be more a recommendation than a condemnation.

The OAS Permanent Council made a statement which was approved by consensus. The Guatemalan delegation also expressed approval of the statement. One important part of the statement expresses the organizations' profound concern over violations of international law.

This concern is definitely manifest, Castillo Valdez said, with regard to events that have taken place in various parts of the world. He said such cases indisputably hinder the peaceful coexistence of peoples. He added that the OAS resolution rejects any action that violates the rules of government relations among states.

On the other hand, the declarative portion of the OAS resolution rejects all acts of violence. In this regard, as we all know, the Guatemalan Government is most interested in rejecting any act of violence, not only inside the country, but anywhere in the world, the foreign minister said.

UNIONISTS SAY PEASANTS MASSACRED TO BENEFIT U.S. FIRMS

PA160252 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Guatemalan labor leaders have told Radio Havana about the killings of peasants that the repressive forces of their country are carrying out in the northern region for the purpose of creating the so-called transversal belt [faja transversal], where U.S. transnational enterprises will engage in the exploitation and processing of oil and nickel. The sources said the people of the area are being repressed and taken to veritable concentration camps to be turned into cheap labor for the U.S. enterprises.

The sources said some of the U.S. enterprises planning establishments in the so-called transversal belt of the north include the (Shellandoa), Trans-Atlantic Petroleum and (Exnival), which specializes in the exploitation of nickel.

The massacres, the labor leaders stated, include the assassination of regional peasant leaders, whose bodies have been discarded in other areas of the country to make their identification difficult.

EGP TAKES CREDIT FOR ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

PA171859 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0930 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 15 Feb (LATIN)--The Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP) has taken credit for the thwarted attempts against the lives of Government Minister Donaldo Alvarez and Police Chief German Chupina early this week.

The leftist EGP sent a communique to the news media last night taking credit for the two attacks.

The government minister was uninjured when a powerful bomb exploded as his car was passing by on Monday.

The security forces on Tuesday discovered an explosive device which contained 76 sticks of dynamite and had been placed on the route which the police chief was scheduled to take.

Meanwhile, fire department sources confirmed last night that the body which was found in the afternoon was that of Arnoldo Medrano, leader of the United Revolutionary Front (FUR). They indicated that the FUR leader was killed inside his car at a ranch west of Guatemala City.

Medrano was a member of the council of the FUR, an opposition party which at the end of January suffered the loss of Pedro Ixcamparic, secretary of affiliates, who was killed one block away from a police station.

Party sources condemned Medrano's assassination, blaming "repressive forces" for it. They indicated that Medrano's body showed signs that he had been tortured.

Manuel Colom Argueta, top leader of the FUR, was assassinated last year when he planned to become a presidential candidate.

VICE PRESIDENT WITHDRAWS RESIGNATION

PA170100 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1920 GMT 16 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 16 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--After several days in retreat from worldly affairs and after practicing spiritual meditation, Guatemalan Vice President Francisco Villagran Kramer has decided to withdraw his offer to resign as vice president. "After careful consideration of the implications of the resignation, the country's political circumstances and the recommendations of persons of international repute who were consulted, I have decided not to submit my resignation," said Villagran Kramer today.

His decision to continue as vice president "within the framework of the Constitution" puts an end to more than 1 year of waiting for his announced resignation and his possible departure from the country.

ZONE COMMANDER AMBUSHED BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS

PA180051 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0037 GMT 18 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 17 Feb (LATIN)--It was officially announced tonight that the country's third-ranking army chief, the commander of the Jutiapa Military Zone in the eastern part of the country, was assassinated today by a group of unidentified persons.

Col Jose Fernando Ruiz Furlang was gunned down by automatic pistol and submachinegun fire as he was entering his home in this capital, the army public relations service has reported. The report states that the men were waiting in ambush for the high-ranking army official close to his home.

The official bulletin gives no other details of the shooting.

Army Condemns Assassination

PA181414 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 18 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Commenting on the assassination of Col Jose Fernando Ruiz Furlang, Col Marco Antonio Castellanos, public relations chief of the high military command, has said the Guatemalan Army condemns this new act of violence against another member of the Guatemalan Army. It is regrettable that Guatemalans continue to destroy their own fatherland, Castellanos said.

He added that it is incredible that these bad sons of Guatemala continue to shed more Guatemalan blood, as if the lives already lost through violence are not enough. Castellanos said that Col Ruiz Furlang was a good man and a good officer. Before going into the army he was a teacher. He was a good and useful man for the fatherland, Castellanos added.

HONDURAS

U.S. COMPANIES OBTAIN CONCESSIONS FOR OIL EXPLORATION

PA152156 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Edgardo Zuniga Rovetto, director of mines and hydrocarbons, said that the concessions granted to U.S. companies, Texaco, Caribbean Incorporated and Esmerada Exportations, to explore for oil do not grant them ownership rights over any oilfields they may find.

These concessions were granted last year by the Natural Resources Ministry and drilling began in September along the continental shelf near Puerto Castilla.

OLYMPIC COMMITTEE SAYS ATHLETES GOING TO MOSCOW

PA161518 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2327 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The Honduran Olympic Committee announced here today that it has accepted the invitation to participate in the XXII Olympic games in Moscow.

A communique states that the decision was unanimous and was in keeping with the precept of the international Olympic movement which forbids mixing politics and sports.

The communique also states that the Honduran Olympic Committee carefully considered the decisions adopted at the Lake Placid meeting by the Executive Committee of the International Olympic Committee, and by the Executive Committee of the World Assembly of National Olympic Committees at the Mexico meeting, where it was unanimously decided, respecting the spirit of the statutes of the International Olympic Committee, to fully support the Olympic games in Moscow.

The Olympic Committee also said training of the Honduran athletes who should be going to Moscow is continuing in Mexico.

INTERNATIONAL AID REQUESTED TO TRANSFER SOMOZISTS

PA172014 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The Honduran Government has asked for international cooperation to transfer Somozist counterrevolutionaries to other countries. Honduras' request comes after the Honduran Army dismantled a clandestine camp where 270 Somozists were training near the town of Guanacaste close to the Nicaraguan border. The Nicaraguan authorities have maintained a prudent silence regarding the capture of the counterrevolutionaries in Honduras.

AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATING INVASION OF NICARAGUA PLOT

PA152159 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Members of the National Commission for Refugees have opened an investigation in the refugee camp in Choluteca to find out if there was really a plot to invade Nicaragua from our territory. Those in charge of the investigation will conduct an exhaustive inquiry among the refugees admitted into the country after the change of government in Nicaragua last year.

If these investigations confirm that the refugees had indeed violated the right of asylum, they will be expelled to other countries and will no longer benefit from the right of asylum granted by our government, the government and Justice Ministry indicated. In this way, the Honduran Government wishes to reiterate its impartiality regarding the internal affairs of the neighboring countries.

NICARAGUA

SWITZERLAND, WEST GERMANY TO PURCHASE GOLD

PA161333 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Nicaragua will sell gold to European countries. The Nicaraguan Central Bank has obtained new international markets for gold, namely Switzerland and Germany. In addition, it has been announced that the Nicaraguan Government has decided to negotiate with the European countries to sell this gold in processed form, in other words, refined.

This decision was reached because Nicaragua sells unprocessed gold and then purchases it in processed form from the same countries to which it was sold.

Nicaragua purchases processed gold to supply jewelers. However, the Nicaraguan Government has now decided to process the gold in order to save foreign exchange.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES LAW ON TRANSFERS OF GOID

PA161339 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The government has established harsh penalties for persons taking gold--whether in jewels or in any other way--outside the country. This has been a fad for some time now, ever since gold reached such astronomical prices on international markets. A Government House spokeswoman will read the part of the law concerning the ban on taking precious metals outside the country:

[Begin recording] Article 1. Any transaction, transfer of ownership and movement of precious metals, whether in the form of jewels, coins, nuggets, powder, flakes or any other natural or processed way, among private persons, whether individuals or corporations, except for those established in this law is hereby prohibited. This ban includes any object which has the metal in question amalgamated, encrusted or combined with other materials which are not specifically stated here.

Article 2. The previous rule does not apply to state institutions authorized by law and individuals who make occasional transfers for themselves and not for profit.

Article 3. Any individual or corporation which regularly engages in the sale or industrialization of the objects established in this law will require express authorization of the Nicaraguan Mining Development Corporation [Condemina], which is the only state organization empowered to authorize such operations.

Article 4. Condemina must carry out in the local market any acquisition or transfer with any individual or corporation of the objects mentioned in this law.

Article 5. The government hereby prohibits the export or exit in any way of the objects mentioned in this law which is not authorized by the proper state organizations. This does not apply to persons who leave the country with jewels for their personal use as long as these are not taken out in large quantities.

Article 6. Violation of this law will be punished by:

A. Confiscation of the objects as well as the means used to violate the law,

B. A fine equivalent to twice the value of the articles seized and,

C. Prison terms from 1 to 3 years. [end recording]

TOMAS BORGE IN MEXICO FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATION

PA172209 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2155 GMT 17 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Feb (EFE)--Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge is in Mexico City to visit several local health centers. The Nicaraguan Embassy in Mexico said the commander of the Nicaraguan Revolutionary Army will take advantage of his visit to Mexico to "get a complete medical examination."

Borge arrived in Mexico unexpectedly yesterday. According to the Nicaraguan Embassy, he is returning to Nicaragua this afternoon.

LOCAL JESUITS PROTEST THREAT TO GUATEMALAN COUNTERPARTS

PA152308 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpt] In view of the report that Jesuits in Guatemala have been threatened with death by an ultraright group we, the Jesuits of Ciudad Sandino, Managua, protest against this threat, which violates our most elementary rights.

We again express solidarity with the posture and the work [of the Guatemalan Jesuits]. We congratulate them because they have been found worthy of suffering to some degree for Jesus Christ and we ask the Lord to have the sun of freedom shine soon in that sister country as it does in Nicaragua.

DEFENSE COMMITTEES THREATEN TO TAKE OVER OIL FACTORY

PA121522 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0330 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The 47 Sandinist Defense Committees of the Ernesto "Che" Guevara Eastern Market are ready to take over the (CRACSA) oil factory if it continues to sell its products to speculating wholesalers.

In a communique issued this afternoon, they pronounced themselves against this factory which makes its profits by making our people hungry rather than by selling its oil production to the Ministry of Domestic Trade.

In addition, the committees back the measure of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction in connection with the closing of the daily EL PUEBLO and the sentence to which its leaders were condemned.

EDUCATION MINISTER SAYS SCHOOLS WILL NOT BE NATIONALIZED

PA181739 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Feb 80 pp 1, 5 PA

[Text] Education Minister Dr Carlos Tunnerman Bernheim has told newsmen that the government has not thought of nationalizing private schools because it is not in an economic position to do so. Since the victory of the revolution, public education has been provided completely free; so nationalizing private schools would only increase the state's expenditures.

The minister said that so far 10 educational centers have been nationalized, but that these belonged to Somozists. He said that he has also spoken to the directors of several private schools that are experiencing economic problems, and that a solution to this situation is being sought.

The report that the private schools were going to be nationalized over a long period of time was published by one of the transnational agencies that belong to international reactionary opinion. The agency attributed the statement to Managua Archbishop Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo.

Regarding this, education sector sources said that the monsignor's statement may have been misrepresented, or that the newsman who interviewed him may have misinterpreted his statement.